



YOUTH IN NEED OF SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT

Administrative Office of Probation Response to Non-Delinquent Status Youth

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DISCUSSION POINTS

- Key Points from The Vera Institute
 - Status Offense Reform Center
- Key Points from the Coalition for Juvenile Justice SOS Project
 - Safety, Opportunity and Success (SOS): Standards of Care for Non-Delinquent Youth
- Probation's efforts to incorporate the SOS Project Principles into practice
 - Philosophy
 - Assessment
 - Supervision
- District 3J (Lancaster County) Pilot Project
 - Youth In Need of Supervision and Support (YINSS)

THE VERA INSTITUTE: STATUS OFFENSE REFORM CENTER (SORC)

- Developed a Toolkit for Status Offense System Reform
 - 4 Modules
 - Structuring Systems Change
 - Using Local Information to Guide System Change
 - Planning and Implementing System Change
 - Monitoring and Sustaining System Change
- SORC website
 - <http://www.statusoffensereform.org/>

THE VERA INSTITUTE: STATUS OFFENSE REFORM CENTER (SORC)

- **The SORC states effective community-based system features the following:**
 - **Diversion from Court**
 - Having mechanisms in place to steer youth and families away from the juvenile justice system and toward community-based services
 - **An Immediate Response**
 - Youth and families may need assistance right away from trained professionals to de-escalate the situation
 - **A Triage Process**
 - Careful screening and assessment, effective systems identify needs and tailor services accordingly
 - **Services that are Accessible and Effective**
 - Easy access is key, location, cost or difficult to use may cause families to opt out before getting their needs met. Engagement of the entire family, not just the youth
 - **Internal Assessment**
 - Monitoring outcomes and adjusting practices as needed are essential to be effective

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE SOS PROJECT: SAFETY, OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS: STANDARDS OF CARE FOR NON-DELINQUENT YOUTH

- Improving Responses to Youth Charged with Status Offenses: A Training Curriculum
 - Module 1: Principles for Responding to Status Offenses
 - Module 2: Efforts to Avoid Court Involvement
 - Module 3: Efforts to Limit Court Involvement
- SOS website:
 - <http://juvjustice.org/our-work/safety-opportunity-and-success-project/about-sos-project>

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE SOS PROJECT: SAFETY, OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS: STANDARDS OF CARE FOR NON-DELINQUENT YOUTH

- Apply a child and family-centric approach to status offense cases by prioritizing child and family safety, well-being and permanency for the child
- Understand and apply current and emerging scientific knowledge about adolescent development, particularly as it relates to court-involved youth
- Understand positive youth development principles and how they can be used to achieve better outcomes for court-involved youth
- Ensure that past trauma and other experiences, which may underlie or lead to status-offending behaviors, are identified and responded to with appropriate screening, assessment, treatment, services and supports

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE SOS PROJECT: SAFETY, OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS: STANDARDS OF CARE FOR NON-DELINQUENT YOUTH

- Implement a status offense system framework that promotes shared leadership and responsibility by encouraging youth engagement in court, agency, and other meetings affecting their case, safety, well-being, treatment services and/or placement
- Utilize alternative dispute resolution strategies to resolve youth and family conflicts outside of the court system
- Employ family engagement strategies that identify and emphasize a family's strengths, and empower families to find and implement solutions outside of the court system
- Eliminate racial and ethnic disparities by being culturally aware and ensuring impartial and equal access to culturally-competent prevention and intervention services and treatment for youth charged with status offenses and their families

COALITION FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE SOS PROJECT: SAFETY, OPPORTUNITY AND SUCCESS: STANDARDS OF CARE FOR NON-DELINQUENT YOUTH

- Understand the developmental, behavioral and social differences between boys and girls and how their service needs are accordingly different. Make gender-responsive choices regarding interventions, treatment and services before, during, and following court involvement
- Ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or questioning (LGBTQ) youth who are charged with status offenses receive fair treatment, equal access to services, and respect and sensitivity from all professionals and other youth in court, agency, service, school and placement
- Ensure children do not enter the status offense system because of learning, mental health, sensory, speech/language or co-occurring disabilities. Ensure that children with disabilities who do enter the status offense system are treated fairly and given access to needed evaluations, treatments and services
- Coordinate with other relevant formal and informal systems of care to better serve children and families

YOUTH IN NEED OF SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT

New Standards and Expectations for Working with Non-Delinquent Status Youth

PILOT PROGRAM-YOUTH IN NEED OF SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT (YINSS)

- Early Intervention
 - Efforts to begin our work with the youth and family at adjudication
 - Provide early assessment and screenings
 - 10 day team meetings with youth, family and school personnel
- Assessment and Screening Tools
 - Identifying an assessment tool that will help probation officers focus on the areas that are affecting the youth's functioning
 - JIFF- Juvenile Inventory for Functioning
 - Identifying a screening tool that leads towards proper evaluation recommendations
 - MAYSI-2- Massachusetts Youth Screening Instrument, Version 2
 - Screens for Mental Health, Substance Use and Trauma Exposure

PILOT PROGRAM-YOUTH IN NEED OF SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT (YINSS)

- Development of new standards of supervision for YINSS
 - Team meetings
 - Home and field visits
 - Case staffing
 - Specialized knowledge of community services available for youth and families
 - Presence with the youth and family in their educational arena
 - Partnership with stakeholders
 - Judiciary, County Attorney, Public Defender, School Personnel, etc.
- Use of Rural Improvement for Schooling and Employment (RISE)
 - An AmeriCorp program in partnership with probation

DESIRED OUTCOMES FROM YINSS IMPLEMENTATION

Decrease:

- Length of time on formal supervision and support (Probation) for YINSS
- The number of technical violations requested on the YINSS population
- The number of YINSS youth placed in non-treatment congregate care settings
 - Development of a continuum of out of home placement settings
- The number of YINSS youth placed in a staff secure detention setting if there is an identified need for a detention by utilizing detention alternatives

DISTRICT 3J (LANCASTER COUNTY) YINSS IMPLEMENTATION

- Collaboration meetings with stakeholders
- Development of new investigation format
 - Use of new assessment and screening tools
- Specialized training of SOS principles, wraparound principles and standards of supervision
 - Specialized YINSS Officers
 - Cedars tracker staff
- Aligning YINSS Officers with specific schools
- Implementation of 10 day post adjudication meeting
- Implementation of case staffing and pilot program meetings (bi-weekly)

PILOT PROGRAM-YOUTH IN NEED OF SUPERVISION AND SUPPORT (YINSS) PRIOR PILOT IMPLEMENTATION JANUARY 2016 DATA

- Number of youth with a status offense: 172
- Female: 56% Male: 44%
- Youth charged with Truancy: 83%
- Number of sanctions imposed: N/A
- Number of requests for Motion to Revoke Probation on Technical Violations: 18
- Number of youth in an out of home placement setting: 33
- Average length of time on probation: 12.08 months

YINSS DATA AFTER PILOT IMPLEMENTATION- FEBRUARY-JULY 2016

- Number of Youth in the YINSS program: 106
- Females: 63% Males: 37%
- Youth charged with Truancy: 91%
- Number of Sanctions Imposed: 119
- Number of requests for Motion to Revoke Probation on Technical Violations: 3
- Number of youth in an out of home placement setting: 6
- Average length of time on probation: 6.19 months
- Early data shows desired outcome are being achieved!

QUESTIONS?

Thank you for your attendance!